

Fri 30 May 2003 07:52:45 AM EDT
Gill Rich
1018 ne 70th
seattle, WA 98122

P. 2

02277

May 27, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Powell:

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is considering possible changes to its media ownership rules. I urge you to fully disclose your ideas on this extremely important issue and allow hearings and public comment.

Allowing greater concentration and cross-ownership of media may have a profound impact on Americans' access to a wide range of news, information, programming and political commentary. To have a healthy democratic dialogue and participation on major issues, I believe it is important that we have access to a diversity of opinions and information, not a handful of options. Altering media ownership rules could seriously affect vigorous public debate and the marketplace of ideas. Rulemaking of this significance should therefore be open to public comment.

I also believe that, to stay democratic and free, we need to ensure diversity of opinion and the free exchange of ideas. It is imperative that there be the widest possible comment on any proposed rule so the Commission may fairly and impartially evaluate whether it will promote or hinder such diversity.

Once again, I urge you to fully disclose your ideas on this extremely important issue and allow hearings and public comment.

Sincerely,

Gill Rich

Fri 30 May 2003 07:52:45 AM EDT
Harold Meeker
1719 E. 156 St. N
Grinnell, IA 50112-7589

P. 1

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Sincerely,

Harold L. Meeker

Mary Anne McCarthy
2622 Laurel Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

MM

May 30, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

You have made it abundantly clear that you don't give a fig what I think unless I happen to be, say, Mel Karmazin or Rupert Murdoch, but I'm going to tell you anyway.

How dare you presume to remove the current safeguards that were designed to ensure diversity of media ownership? The airwaves belong to the public, not to you, and not to the media moguls. You are charged with protecting the public interest, and any further weakening of any of the regulations is ***not in the public interest***. Relaxing the existing ownership caps will serve only the financial interests of a handful of media corporations.

You have permitted only ***one*** public FCC hearing on this extremely important issue of deregulation and only five meetings with major consumer groups. In contrast, FCC officials have held ***seventy-one*** private meetings with top broadcasters. None of the broadcast networks have covered media consolidation. It is clear that you and the network owners do not want ordinary citizens to be aware of your intentions. You and the networks know that we will object because you are not acting in the public interest.

Deregulation will reduce competition, localism and diversity of voices, the very goals that you and the FCC are charged with protecting. If you will take the time to ask the public, we will be glad to provide you with evidence. I can personally testify that after the radio station ownership caps were lifted in 1996, local programs began to disappear from Los Angeles stations. Diversity of opinion has all but disappeared. Now most daylight hours are filled by nationally syndicated programs, where local events and local politics are not discussed.

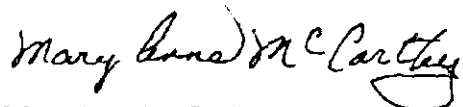
Corporate media arguments that the addition of the Internet and cable television to the media landscape ensures that we have ample competition today are based on several fallacies. First, different types of media are ***not*** equivalent, as Mel Karmazin suggests. For example, the Internet does not serve the same audience as broadcast television, nor does it fulfill the same function. Not everyone has access to the Internet, and it is not a local medium.

Second, a large percentage of the broadcast and cable channels, radio stations, and Internet services, and even many newspapers, are already controlled by just a few corporations. Permitting an even greater concentration of ownership will certainly not foster competition. It will not foster a diversity of cultural and political discourse in our community. These media outlets already reflect the viewpoints of a mere handful of corporate owners, which gives these corporations undue influence over public opinion --- and, apparently, undue influence over the opinions of some Federal Communication Commissioners, as well.

Consider the harm that may result from allowing further mergers, and balance that against the harm that the media giants will suffer if they are not allowed to merge: they will not be able to increase their profits without limit, and they will not be able to increase their influence over public opinion and government officials.

I urge you not to bring your proposals to a vote until you have made those proposals public and have given the public ample time to discuss them. You need to hear from us, the citizens who own the airwaves and who depend on them for unbiased news reports and timely information. Democracy requires an informed and educated public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Anne McCarthy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary Anne McCarthy

Leslie Belew
345 Alta Ave
Ashland, OR 97520

May 27, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

12-27-03

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Sincerely,

Leslie Belew

02-277

May 27, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Once again, I urge you to fully disclose your ideas on this extremely important issue and allow hearings and public comment.

The media is already over concentrated and homogenized. The abandonment of the fairness doctrine has proven to be a disaster.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Reynolds

Joseph A. Mustich
404 Nettleton Hollow Rd
Washington, CT 06793

02277

May 28, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Joseph A. Mustich

Dara Eckart
3131 Anderson Road
Bowling Green, IN 47833

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Sincerely,

Dara Eckart

02277

Perri Ardman
PO Box 1744
Kingston, NY 12466

May 28, 2003

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445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Public hearings are an important part of any democracy. The FCC can play a crucial role in the strengthening our our nation and in winning back respect from the global community by holding public hearings on the proposed rules changes. The airwaves belong to the public.

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Sincerely,

Perri Ardman

George A. DeGiovanni
230 Emily Dr
Park Ridge, NJ 07656

02-277

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445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

George A. DeGiovanni

John Gingerich
P.O. Box 358
Lexington, GA 30648-0358

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Washington, DC 20554

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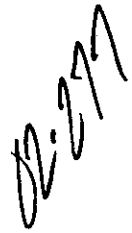
John Gingerich

02-297

Nancy Sears
15 Hill St
Middletown, NY 10940-4106

May 28, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554



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Sincerely,

nancy Sears

Michael Harriman
1406 S. Sycamore St.
Palestine, TX 75801-5156

02-277

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Sincerely,

Michael P. Harriman



May 29, 2003

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Dear Sir:

Do not change the rules enabling the networks and communications conglomerates to control the content on the "air ways". Perform the duty the Federal Communications Commission was set up to perform. Keep a diverse ownership which encourages open ideas and independent opinions for the millions of Americans who are the recipients of the programs that are transmitted.

Thank you for your trust and dedication to this very important decision you will make for all American citizens.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Hammond, Jr.

Keith Barton
14538 Superior Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

May 28, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

05-27-03

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Sincerely,

Keith J. Barton

Reagen Ward
12111 Alston Drive
Meadows Place, TX 77477-1507

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Sincerely,

Reagen Ward

Lewis Sternberg
3737 SW 87 Ave #29
Portland, OR 97225

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Lewis Sternberg

Michael Waddell
5901 Woodhaven Ridge Court
Louisville, KY 40291

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Sincerely,

Michael Waddell

Donna Andrews
240 Osborne Avenue
Morrisville, PA 19067

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445 12th Street SW
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De-279

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Donna Andrews

Elias Lustig
5400 S.E. Ault Avenue
Stuart, FL 34997-6402

00-279

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Sincerely,

Elias Lustig

Kathleen Ryan
875 Glen Elm
St. Louis, MO 63122-1810

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Kathleen Ryan